In the Abstract

Amend the Abstract as follows:

The present invention provides a novel intermediate represented by formula (1), (3), or (4) for efficiently producing a 1β-methylcarbapenem compound for oral administration, and a process for producing the intermediate. That is, the present invention provides a process for producing a novel β-lactam compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (4), the process including allowing a β-lactam compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (5) as a starting material to react with a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (6) in the presence of a base to obtain a novel β-lactam compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (1), protecting the hydroxyl group, subsequently performing cyclization in the presence of a strong base, allowing the cyclized compound to react with diphenylphosphoryl chloride to obtain a novel β-lactam compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (3), and eliminating the protecting group therefrom.